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The USDA Conservation and Production Research Laboratory was started in 1938 to help control wind erosion in the southern Great Plains. Sweep plows developed in early 1940's reduced erosion and increased wheat yield 100 kg/ha. No-tillage research started in 1956 resulted in practical systems by 1975. Sorghum yield (up to 1000 kg/ha) and profits were increased in a 3 year wheat-fallow-sorghum-fallow rotation. Wheat yield was not affected; fertilizer needs for sorghum increased. Cotton yields were increased in a similar system. Higher yields resulted from increased soil water storage during fallow. No-tillage greatly reduced potential for wind and water erosion. Other conservation tillage systems have been developed.

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